Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3336, **Agenda Item #:** 4. 11/12/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP306, to provide professional engineering services for the Hornsby Bend BMP Process Ammonia Removal System Facility project in an amount not to exceed $500,000.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE participation.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office

Managing Department

Public Works Department

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget of Austin Water.

Purchasing Language:

Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of four firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>.

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Cara Wilson, 512-974-5653.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

October 14, 2020 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 8-0 vote, with Commissioner Penn recusing and Commissioner Turrieta absent.

Additional Backup Information:

The Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant (BMP) is a wastewater sludge processing facility for Austin Water. Hornsby Bend BMP processes wastewater sludge by screening, thickening, anaerobically digesting, dewatering, and on-site composting. Hornsby Bend BMP is a non-discharge facility, which does not authorize discharges into waters of the state, per Texas Commission on Environmental Quality permit. Therefore, waste/side streams from plant processes must remain on site for treatment. Currently, a Side Stream Treatment Plant (SSTP) treats the two side streams originating from the Thickening Facility and the Dewatering Facility before being discharged into a pond system which is drawn from onsite irrigation.

The SSTP is process-limited and is not capable of treating the higher levels of ammonia from the Dewatering Facility; therefore, a separate ammonia process reduction plant is proposed to provide enhanced ammonia treatment. The proposed Ammonia Reduction Project will utilize the Anammox process which is Anaerobic Ammonium Oxidation to treat the high levels of ammonia. A pilot study was conducted over a nine-month period, from November 2017 to August 2018, under a wide range of conditions. The technology proved to be a resilient and effective treatment. Based on the pilot success and positive results from other facilities, Austin Water has elected to move forward with an ammonia reduction plant using the Anammox process.

The purpose of this project is to reduce ammonia levels from the Dewatering Facility. The proposed Ammonia Reduction Project will include a Preliminary Engineering Report to define a scope, cost, and schedule for the project work, and will be the basis for developing the subsequent design. Design and Bid phase services will provide complete and detailed engineering documents for the bidding and construction of the plant. The services will include a Basis of Design Report, design schedule, opinion of probable construction cost, all required site development and building permits, a Final Engineering Report, and a complete set of conformed engineering documents including all addendums. Construction phase services will include coordination with the construction contractor, including commissioning and startup of the ammonia reduction plant. Warranty phase services will generally consist of assisting the City in correcting any potential project malfunctions or deficiencies.

The primary benefits of this Ammonia Reduction Project are to improve the performance at the Hornsby Bend BMP facility and reduce the ammonia levels being discharged into the pond system while protecting the environment.

There will be no impact to the public as all work will be done on City property that is closed to the public.

If Council does not approve the item, the high-level ammonia concentrations will not be effectively reduced.

The estimated Consultant Project Cost for the Preliminary Engineering Phase is $500,000. The City intends to return to City Council to request additional authorization for Final Design and then again for Construction Phase and Warranty Phase Services.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council awards. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the awarded responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may award another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

TOP RANKED FIRM: Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas

SECOND RANKED FIRM: Hazen and Sawyer, DPC is located in Austin, Texas

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment